

# Suspect Jailed After Classroom Burglary

## Torrance Press-Herald

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Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879.

Series II, Volume II, No. 90

3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California — Sunday, May 15, 1966

10c Per Copy By Carrier 50c Per Month By Mail \$12 Per Year 16 PAGES



SENDING MESSAGES . . . Members of the Towers School Radio Transmitting Society are pictured at one of the station's transmitters. The group operates the only licensed ham radio station ever authorized in California at an elementary school. Sending a message over W6DNW are Lucy Lewand (in foreground), advisor Scott Gray, and Mark Thompson. Lucy is president of the group; Thompson is secretary.

### First In State

## Towers School Operates Own Ham Radio Station

A Torrance elementary school has been granted permission to operate the only licensed radio station ever to be authorized to an elementary school in the state of California.

Operating by permission of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under call letters W6DNW is a ham station conducted by the Radio Transmitting Society at Towers Elementary School.

Comprised of 16 students, two parents, and two teachers, the club meets twice a week in the school's language laboratory to study the international Morse code and communications theory and law.

AFTER fulfilling the obligations set down by the government communications agency, the students sent word to the FCC that they were ready to begin operations. They received a license late in March.

Since that time each of the students has been concentrating on getting his own operator's license. Not only does this mean mastering the Morse code, it means learning answers to such theoretical questions as, "Why are a rectifier and a filter required in the plate power supply system of an amateur transmitter when operated from alternating current?"

The student ham station is operating on an 80 meter band, a 40 meter band, and a 15 meter band. It is run on 75 watts of power with a 135-foot antenna and is capable of receiving air waves over a distance of 8,000 miles under certain conditions.

Under FCC regulations they are permitted to discuss radio, radio propagation, and items of non-commercial value anywhere in the world except Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Thailand, where amateurs are not licensed.

What future plans do club sponsors have? According to Miller, they are looking forward to the day when they will be able to tie in their studies with some of the places they have contacted by radio.

"BUT RIGHT now," he said, "our biggest concern is to get every member of the club licensed."

Members of the Towers School Radio Transmitting Society include: Lucy Lewand, president; Daniel Lombardi, vice president; Mark Thompson, secretary, and Joanne Dusseau, Susan Gaier, Robert Bellairs, Kenneth S. Aville, Linda Burns, Richard Lees, Jay Powell, William Barca, Jeffrey Plum, Michael McLanhan, Bruce Niles, JoEllen Lewand, and Thurston Smith. Scott Gray, a teacher at the school, is advisor to the group.

TO DATE, ten youngsters and one teacher have passed the code tests required to obtain individual FCC radio operator licenses.

The idea of obtaining the first elementary school radio station license occurred to principal Larry Miller one day early in January when he was discussing ham radio as a hobby with a couple of parents and teachers.

As a result of the discussion, Miller wrote to the FCC to find out what they would have to do to qualify for such a license.

The FCC set down three requirements: they would need to have the sponsorship of the student council, they would need a licensed operator to serve as trustee, and they would have to form a radio club and set up by-laws.

### Four Saxons Selected by Instructors

Four North High juniors have been selected by English teachers at the school to take tests in writing and literary interpretation in the ninth annual English Achievement Awards program.

Dan Chadderder, Tim Doty, James Krause, and Robert Shoup each submitted an impromptu essay, an autobiography, and a sample of what they considered to be their best prose or verse.

The competition is sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English.



VEHICLE BURNS . . . "It just exploded," Mrs. James R. Callahan told firemen and police officers after her car engine flared up and burned at 225th Street and Hickory Avenue Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Callahan, who lives at 22635 Iris Ave., said she stopped at Hickory Avenue and the flames shot up from the engine compartment. She and the four children in the vehicle got out without injury. Firemen under the command of Battalion Chief Ray Flagg doused the flames, tentatively charged to a carburetor flashback. (Press-Herald Photo)

# Freeway Bandit Robs Local 24-Hour Market

## Police Nab Man On Credit Card Forgery Charge

A 22-year-old man was booked on a forgery charge by Los Angeles police Friday when he allegedly tried to make a purchase using a teacher's credit card stolen earlier from a Torrance classroom.

Jailed was Preston Gordon McDowell, who gave a Torrance address. Police said he was driving a vehicle with South Carolina license plates, and that his Torrance address could not be immediately confirmed.

The card was reported stolen earlier from Clara Whitson, of 2627 W. 168th St., who had complained that her purse containing several credit cards and a small amount of money was taken from her classroom sometime during the day Friday at the Ascension Lutheran School at 17910 S. Prairie Ave.

Frank Vrolyk home at 4067 Newton St. Friday left with \$70 in currency and another \$35 worth of half-dollars taken from a piggy bank.

Operators of a vending machine service at the Douglas Aircraft Co. plant at 2750 W. Lomita Blvd. told police Friday that someone had gone into the storage area used by the vendors and taken bagged coins and currency worth more than \$300. Other bagged money which had been concealed in the area was not taken, police were told.

## Torrance Girl Wins Ford Honor

A seventh-grade Torrance girl has been named one of the top 20 scientists in a Ford Future Scientists of America program for seventh through twelfth graders throughout the Western region of the United States.

Susan Verecke, a student at Carr Elementary School, will compete in national judging in Washington, D.C., later this spring. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Verecke of 18718 Cherry Ave.

Her winning project "Measuring Pressure From Root Growth" was a five-chapter report.

Two other Carr School seventh graders received honorable mention in the contest, sponsored by the National Science Teachers Association. Receiving honorable mention were Teresa Slack and Denise Murphy.

## Teacher Wins Summer Grant

Mrs. Sunga Greisman, fifth grade teacher at Car. Steele Elementary School, has been awarded a National Scholarship Federation grant for summer study.

She will enroll in a Latin American History institute at the University of California, Berkeley, July 5 through Aug. 13.

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CLEAR THE HALLS . . . Jim Scott, a member of El Camino's vets' club, Chi Gamma Iota, takes a shakedown cruise of the college health center in a wheelchair recently purchased for the college by Chi Gamma Iota. At the controls is Polly Hart, an El Camino nurse. The chair was presented as a service project of the veterans' group.

## Victim Robbed Of \$400

A young bandit who used a fast sports car and the nearby freeway for his get-away robbed an all-night market of more than \$400 early Saturday, it was reported to Torrance Police.

Clerk Lewis Arthur Martin, on duty at the market at Prairie Avenue and Redondo Beach Boulevard, told investigating officers that a man 18 to 20 years old came in the store shortly after 4 a.m. Saturday and asked for change for a dollar bill he held. Martin said he was told the man wanted change for a nearby cigarette machine.

WHEN THE register was opened, the bandit displayed a .45-caliber automatic, Martin said.

"All right, this is a hold up. Give me everything in your till, including what's under the tray," the clerk quoted the bandit. "Be fast about it," Martin said he was told.

The victim said he turned over some \$405 dollars to the gunman.

"Move to the back of the store; don't say anything, don't yell out," Martin said he was told.

Police were told the bandit put the currency in his pocket, stuffed the gun in his trouser waistband, and ran from the store to a waiting car.

The get-away vehicle was described as a white sports car driven by a second man. It roared onto the northbound ramp of the nearby San Diego Freeway and disappeared.

## Hahn Named Chairman Of Hospital Bond Group

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn has been named honorary chairman of the 50-member Citizens' Committee for Proposition A. The group is leading the campaign for passage of the county wide Hospital Bond Issue on the June 7 primary ballot.

"We have an excellent, well-represented committee organized to help in our crusade to pass this bond issue," Supervisor Hahn commented.

"Those of us close to the Southeast community where this hospital will be located are well aware of the need for this facility. All citizens are aware of the County-wide need for additional hospital beds, and I am confident that this awareness will bring forth a strong affirmative vote for Proposition A on election day."

All five members of the Board of Supervisors are serving on the Citizens' Committee. John McCone, chairman of the Governor's Commission

## Manager Promoted

Alex J. Schultz has been named assistant vice president and manager of the automotive finance division at Crocker-Citizens National Bank's Hawthorne and Artesia office in Torrance. He has been serving as manager of the office.

## Two Youths Win Grants From Firm

Two Southwest area students have received scholarships from the Douglas Aircraft Co., Inc., through the firm's Welfare Foundation.

Winners are Timothy P. Burrell of Rolling Hills and Steven N. Okamura of Harbor City. Burrell will attend Pomona College or the California Institute of Technology and Okamura will enroll at the University of Southern California.

Maximum amount of the awards is \$600 for tuition and \$500 for other expenses. The scholarships are renewable annually.

## Woman Wins 'Editor of Year' Award

Mrs. Peg G. Coale, editor of the Aerospace Corp.'s company publication, "The Orbiter," has been named Editor of the Year by the United Crusade Industrial Editors.

Judging was done by members of the Detroit, Mich., Industrial Editors Association.

The Lockheed Aircraft Co.'s "Lockheed Star" won top editorial honors in the contest. Other first place winners included publications of the Bank of America, the Southern California Gas Co., and the State Farm Insurance Co.

## Harbor Group Sets Meeting

The State Small Craft Harbors Commission will meet July 19 in Redondo Beach, announced last week.

The commission is accepting an invitation extended by Harrison C. Daigh, director of Redondo Beach's King Harbor.

## Sepulveda Signal Nears . . .

Ratification of an agreement between the city and title holder to Del Amo Shopping center property for installation of a signal at the center's eastern exit and Sepulveda Boulevard will be recommended to the City Council Tuesday evening by Arthur T. Horkay, the city's traffic engineer. Under terms of the agreement to be ratified, the city would pay half of the \$15,000 cost of the project. Gas Tax Funds would be used to finance the city's share, Horkay said.

## Arena Trip Planned . . .

The Torrance Recreation Department's theater bus trip for May has been scheduled for Thursday when the group will visit the Ice Capades at the Los Angeles Sports Arena, it was reported here yesterday. The bus will leave the city hall at 6:45 p.m. and will return about midnight. Cost of the trip is \$5.50 or \$6, depending on tickets selected, and includes admission, bus fare, and trip insurance. Reservations must be made at Joslyn Recreation Center (FA 8-8362) by 3 p.m. Monday.

## Vacant Office Burns . . .

Offices at a lumberyard at 4217 Redondo Beach Blvd. burned Friday evening, causing major damage to the unoccupied building. The building has been vacant for several weeks, it was reported. Cause of the blaze is being investigated by fire department officials.